



August 26, 2011

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Request to Issue IFB - Quality Assurance Support Vehicles**

Recommendations

1. Rescind the contract award to Theodore Robins Ford for four Hybrid SUV Quality Assurance support vehicles; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to issue Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. 12-019 for four hybrid-electric Quality Assurance support vehicles to replace the four vehicles currently in the fleet.

Background

Vehicles currently in use by Foothill Transit's Quality Assurance team are now over seven years old and have accumulated an average of more than 73,000 miles, with one at 91,000 miles. Maintenance and repair costs on these vehicles continue to rise; negatively impacting the organization's operating cost.

Fuel efficient hybrid-electric vehicles are readily available and replacement of the agency's older gasoline-powered vehicles would be in line with Foothill Transit's "Green" efforts. In addition, any new vehicles procured will be covered by a factory warranty; ensuring minimum impact to Foothill Transit's operating cost over the next five years or 100,000 miles.

On November 12, 2010, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to issue an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Quality Assurance Replacement Vehicles. IFB No. 11-023R was issued on February 9, 2011 requesting bids on hybrid SUVs similar to the Ford Escape or the Toyota Highlander. The IFB was advertised in two local newspapers within the Foothill Transit service area, posted on Foothill Transit's website, and sent directly to 11 automotive dealers within Foothill Transit's service area.

Bids were received on March 3, 2011 from six auto dealerships and a contract was awarded to Theodore Robins Ford on March 25, 2011 for four Ford Escape hybrid-electric SUVs. That contract specified delivery of the vehicles within 16 weeks of placement of the order. The order was placed on April 5, 2011. To date, however, production of these vehicles has not begun and Ford has indicated that they do not have a projected date to begin production of the vehicles ordered.

Fiscal Impact

Required funding is included in Foothill Transit's approved FY 2012 budget.

Sincerely,

George Karbowski
Director of Operations & Maintenance

Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director